

Hartville Elementary

“Building successful futures, one child at a time.” Is the motto of Hartville Elementary School located in Hartville, MO. Nestled in the beautiful Ozarks, 50 miles east of Springfield, MO lies the Hartville R-II School District. Hartville is a rural, close-knit, agriculturally-based community, which takes pride in the school, and in the fact that the district has received the coveted Distinction in Performance recognition for the past 3 consecutive years.

The Hartville Elementary School community is comprised of administrators, faculty, and support staff who work hard to exemplify the district motto every day. They go above and beyond their duties to make a difference in the lives of each individual child so that they might have a successful future. As the students arrive, they are welcomed by friendly, smiling faces of teachers stationed at each door. The superintendent and principal can be found in the cafeteria greeting students by name and assisting them with breakfast. The elementary principal also frequently goes beyond his contractual duties to make a difference in many ways from motivating students with after-school programs to providing transportation for students.

The teachers contribute many extra hours outside the school day to refine, improve, and enhance their curriculum and teaching strategies. The teachers may be found getting ready for hands-on, inquiry-based activities to strengthen their lessons which are aligned with the Show-Me Standards and Grade Level Expectations (GLEs), preparing interesting Power Point presentations, planning cooperative learning projects, tutoring students, working with gifted or special needs students, contacting parents, collaborating with colleagues, and/or attending committee and professional development meetings. Most of these extra hours are volunteered with no expectation of compensation.

The elementary teachers not only go the extra mile for their elementary students, but they also continue the desire to make a difference in the lives of their former students by supporting their interests and efforts through junior high and high school. Elementary teachers serve as junior high and high school Academic Team sponsors. When the Academic Team Competitions are held, most of the volunteers that serve as moderators, scorekeepers, and timers are elementary teachers. The elementary teachers also attend parades, district music concerts, ball games, and other activities where the junior high and high school students participate.

The staff also shares a personal touch with each student. This is exhibited by the custodian greeting students as they come down the hall. She can be heard singing and doing the “boogie” with students as they leave a pep assembly, encouraging students to read by showing interest in their book selections as they return to class from the library, praising them for good work on display, or regarding positive behavior in the halls, bathrooms, etc. the cooks recognize students on their birthdays with a birthday chant. Even the bus drivers go above and beyond expectations. One bus driver shares a special time with a kindergartener who is so excited about reading, she reads to the bus driver for the 10-15 minutes his bus is loading each evening.

The students at the Hartville Elementary School feel a strong sense of community and belonging as a result of the care and concern exhibited by everyone from the superintendent to the bus drivers as they go the extra mile in order to “build successful futures, one child at a time.”